

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's	)	
Amateur Radio Service Rules to Eliminate	)	RM - 10786
Morse Code Proficiency Testing Requirements	)	
For All Classes of Amateur Licenses	)	
	)	
To: The Commission	)	

Comments Of: Donald C. Wetter

I understand that Morse telegraphy is one method of communication with a rich history. I suppose it has value to those who think it important at this time along with many other modes available today, each with their own proponents. It does not need to be a requirement in the United States for operation in any band. There are many that think it is some type of right of passage and that one is not "dedicated" to amateur radio if not knowledgeable about Morse code. I do not agree with that opinion and this stance, I believe, is a major blockage to increasing the amateur ranks. I have heard in monitoring shortwave bands, many amateur operators using crude language and generally lacking proper operating procedures. Knowledge of the code does not seem to ensure that there are "good" operators on the bands.

As employee in emergency services for over 30 years, I cannot think of one emergency or disaster where I have been present when Morse code was needed to communicate including such scenes as hurricanes, tornados, floods, a war, and the World Trade Center tragedy. I am currently employed with the US Dept. of Homeland Security and have in my response vehicle HF, UHF, and amateur

radios as well as satellite and traditional wireless telephones. I feel confident in that ability of voice or text message getting to its intended recipient without the use of Morse telegraphy.

I urge the Commission to 1) eliminate the “Element 1” Morse test totally from the Commission’s rules for all license classes, 2) and since the only testing distinction between the Technician class and the (grandfathered) Technician Plus class is the “Element 1” Morse Test, modify, as a consequential and logical change, the privileges afforded to Technician class licensees to be equivalent to those currently afforded to Technician Plus licensees and “Technician with Morse credit” licensees. In view of current changes in ITU Radio Regulations, many countries have removed the code requirement. I believe the United States should now do so in an expedited fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

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